United Nations S/2012/402

Security Council

Distr.: General
5 June 2012

Original: English

Note by the President of the Security Council

1. The members of the Security Council reaffirm their commitment to enhancing the efficiency of the Council's work and agree on the following:

Conference resources

2. While ensuring the capacity to hold Council meetings at any time and at short notice, in accordance with rules 1 and 2 of its provisional rules of procedure, the members of the Security Council, during their respective presidencies, should ordinarily request the Secretariat to plan not more than four days per week of Council business, with Fridays normally being reallocated to facilitate the work of the Council's subsidiary organs.

3. Where appropriate, the members of the Council should ordinarily seek to avoid the need for draft resolutions or other documents to be translated over the weekend.

Interactivity

4. The members of the Security Council encourage the President of the Council, with the assistance of the Secretariat, to actively promote additional appropriate measures to increase interactivity and a more efficient use of time in briefings during informal consultations of the whole.

5. The members of the Security Council intend to resort more often to the use of video teleconferencing for briefing the Council, where appropriate, while preserving a balanced approach between video teleconferencing and briefings in person, including during open meetings in the open chamber.

6. The members of the Security Council encourage briefers to be succinct and to focus on key themes rather than reading out lengthy pre-prepared statements. They invite the Secretariat to follow the practice of circulating the briefing texts at briefings and, in particular, where their statements contain extensive or complicated factual information, encourage briefers to circulate written summaries of that information, whenever possible in advance, to allow for a more focused discussion during informal consultations. In cases where requested information or clarification by Council members is not readily available during the briefing in informal consultations, briefers may provide it at a later time.

7. The members of the Security Council plan to minimize, to the extent possible, the reading out of lengthy pre-prepared statements in informal consultations of the whole.

8. The members of the Security Council encourage the use of practical measures such as those above, which would make it feasible, whenever possible, to hold informal consultations on two issues in a three-hour Council meeting, notably with regard to situations routinely on its agenda, thereby promoting planning accuracy and overall efficiency in the Council's work.

9. The members of the Security Council express general support for continuing the practice of holding monthly "luncheons with the Secretary-General". Members of the Council and the Secretariat should continue to use the "any other business" agenda item during informal consultations to raise issues of concern. The members of the Security Council will continue their consideration of additional ways to increase interactivity in informal consultations.

10. The members of the Security Council will consider ways and means of further enhancing interaction with and seeking the views of non-Council members, particularly the interested or concerned States, on issues on its agenda.